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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IOE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05
SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
OIC-02 OES-06 L-03 EUR-12 /104 W
-----261941Z 129596 /50

O 261848Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
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INFO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, ECLA, GT

SUBJ: ECLA: 17TH SESSION GETS UNDERWAY

SUMMARY: TECHNICAL LEVEL OF 17TH SESSION OF ECLA COMMISSION
GOT OFF TO GOOD START ON APRIL 25. AFTER INTRODUCTORY STATE-
MENTS ON ORGANIZATION OF MEETING AND DOCUMENTATION, REPORT OF
CEGAN (LATIN AND CARRIBBEAN CAUCUS WITHIN ECLA), WHICH HAD BEEN
CIRCULATED EARLIER, WAS MADE THE BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS
IN COMMITTEE I ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS. US DELEGATE (ROGERS) MADE
FIRST US INTERVENTION COMMENTING IN GENERAL TERMS ON CEGAN
REPORT. COMMITTEE II ON INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS, INCLUDING
FUTURE ROLE OF ECLA, BEGINS APRIL 26. COMMISSION ADOPTED BY
CONSENSUS DECLARATION PROPOSED BY GUATEMALA EXPRESSING CONCERN
FOR KIDNAPPED SALVADORIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND URGING THAT HIS
LIFE BE SPARED (TEXT SEPTTEL). ONE PROMISING IDEA IS TO HAVE
SESSION CONCLUDE NEXT WEEK WITH DECLARATION BASED ON PRESIDENT
CARTER'S SPEECHES AND SUPPORTED BY ALL ECLA MEMBER STATES.

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1. IN SHORT PLENARY SESSION APRIL 25, ECLA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
ENRIQUE IGLESIAS MADE ENCOURAGING COMMENTS ABOUT WHAT MEETING

MIGHT ACCOMPLISH, AND GUATEMALAN VICE MINISTER OF ECONOMY GUSTAVO
BARRIOS FLORES, PLENARY CHAIRMAN OF THIS WEEK'S TECHNICAL
LEVEL MEETING, MADE WELCOMING SPEECH.

2. DELEGATES GOT DOWN TO WORK IMMEDIATELY WITH CONVENING ON FIRST DAY OF COMMITTEE I, WHICH WILL DEAL WITH AGENDA ITEM 3 ON THE REGIONAL APPRAISAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, AND ITEM 4 ON COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND REGIONS. COMMITTEE II, CHAIRED BY NICARAGUA, WILL BEGIN ON APRIL 26 TO CONSIDER REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING ECLA'S PAST AND FUTURE WORK PROGRAM, THE LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING (ILPES), AND LATIN AMERICAN DEMOGRAPHIC CENTER (CELADE).

3. COMMITTEE I OPENED WITH COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRENDS BY SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN BALBOA. DURING HOUR AND A HALF PRESENTATION, HE FOCUSED ON INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS OF LATIN AMERICA, EMPHASIZING INCOME DISTRIBUTION, CITING 110 MILLION IN EXTREME POVERTY IN THE REGION; FOREIGN DEBT ACCUMULATIONS AND CHANGING CHARACTERISTICS OF THAT DEBT; URBANIZATION CRISIS; AND POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT GROWTH PROBLEMS. HE PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH TO 500 TO 600 MILLION LATIN AMERICANS BY YEAR 2000, AND BECAUSE LATIN POPULATIONS ARE SO YOUNG, JOB CREATION REQUIREMENTS GROWING EVEN FASTER THAN POPULATION AS A WHOLE. HE DEVOTED RELATIVELY LITTLE TIME TO THE USUAL TRADE CONCERNS INCLUDING TERMS OF TRADE AND COMMODITY QUESTIONS. ONLY REACTION CAME FROM SALVADORIAN DELEGATE WHO ASKED IF IMPACT OF OIL PRICES ON NON-PETROLEUM PRODUCERS WILL BE EXAMINED. SECRETARIAT REPLIED THAT IT WILL DISTRIBUTE DOCUMENT THIS WEEK ON IMPACT ON CENTRAL AMERICA.

4. COMMITTEE I CHAIRMAN IS DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S FABIO HERRERA-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROA, MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, WHO ALSO CHAIRED CEGAN MEETING IN MARCH IN SANTO DOMINGO PREPARATORY TO PRESENT SESSION. HE OUTLINED REPORT OF CEGAN MEETING, WHICH IS LARGELY THIRD WORLD-TYPE OF DOCUMENT ALTHOUGH IT ALSO CONTAINS DISCUSSION OF LA SHORTCOMINGS ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE. CEGAN REPORT WAS THEN ADOPTED AS PRINCIPAL BASIS FOR COMMITTEE I DISCUSSIONS, AND CHAIRMAN INVITED COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT FROM US DELEGATION.

5. USDEL RESPONDED, RELYING HEAVILY ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECHES AT THE UN AND THE OAS. THESE SPEECHES, HE SAID, INDICATED INTEREST IN UN ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS ECLA, AND IN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS. OAS SPEECH POINTS TO US DESIRE TO CONSULT WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ISSUES, AND WE CONSIDER THIS ECLA MEETING AS PART OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS. IN THIS SPIRIT WE WELCOME CEGAN REPORT AS USEFUL AND INTERESTING EXPRESSION OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN VIEWS. WE DISAGREE WITH PARTS OF IT, HE CONTINUED, AND WILL MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN WHEN GROUP BEGINS SYSTEMATIC DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT, BUT WE DO NOT

INTEND TO TRY TO MAKE AMENDMENTS. WE WILL BE PLEASED TO SUPPORT ITS TRANSMITTAL TO ECOSOC AS LATIN STATEMENT. WITH REGARD TO BROADER QUESTIONS OF NIEO AND CERDS, ROGERS SAID, US ALSO FINDS THEM USEFUL INDICATIONS OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD, BUT WE CANNOT CONSIDER THEM AS GIVING RISE TO LEGALLY BINDING COMMITMENTS. HE CLOSED WITH REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S UN REFERENCES TO GOALS OF QUOTE A NEW SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND COOPERATION END QUOTE AND QUOTE GREATER PROSPERITY TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF ALL COUNTRIES END QUOTE.

6. CUBAN DELEGATION OF FIVE PERSONS QUIET FIRST DAY, INTERVENING ONLY ONCE TO SECOND SUGGESTION THAT CEGAN REPORT BE MADE COMMITTEE I'S WORKING DOCUMENT. OBSERVER DELEGATIONS INCLUDE FOUR-PERSON CONTINGENTS FROM WEST GERMANY AND SOVIET UNION AND PRESENCE OF HUNGARY AND ROMANIA.

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7. COMMENT: CONCILIATORY AND LOW KEY AND YET FORTHCOMING STATEMENT BY ROGERS EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED BY MOST OTHER DELS AND BY SECRETARIAT. COMMITTEE I CHAIRMAN HERRERA-ROA WAS SO ENCOURAGED THAT HE HOPES TO WORK TOWARD A GENERAL DECLARATION OF THE MEETING THAT CAN BE SUPPORTED BY ALL ECLA MEMBERS. HE FORESEES SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS DERIVED FROM CEGAN REPORT THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WILL BE UNABLE TO SUPPORT. DECLARATION HE HAS IN MIND WOULD BE VERY GENERAL IN TERMS AND BASED ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECHES, AND WOULD BE ISSUED BY HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATES AT SECOND WEEK OF MEETING. USDEL FINDS IDEA INTERESTING, AND IF THE SUGGESTION PROSPERS WITH OTHER DELS, WE WILL WORK TOWARD SUCH A DECLARATION, SUBJECT TO DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL. ANTICIPATION OF AMB YOUNG'S APPEARANCE IS HIGH, AND UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT ON A DECLARATION WOULD, DELEGATION SUBMITS, BE FITTING ACHIEVEMENT DURING HIS TIME HERE.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770145-0646
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From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770420/aaaaaqko.tel
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2697051
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECLA: 17TH SESSION GETS UNDERWAY SUMMARY: TECHNICAL LEVEL OF 17TH SESSION OF ECLA COMMISSION GOT OFF TO GOOD START ON APRIL 25. AFTER INTRODUC
TAGS: OCON, GT, ECLA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bca01c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009